'Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'
Gleams that untravell'd world' — TENNYSON

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS

ANNUAL REPORT 1947-8

The photograph on the front cover shows the approach to St. Pierre (N.A.B.C. leaders' training centre) from the entrance hall.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS

(at 30th September, 1948)

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS

Annual Report 1947-48

THE Education Act, 1944, makes it a duty of every local Education Authority to ensure that the facilities for further education in their area include adequate provision for recreation and social and physical training. In securing them the Authorities are required to pay special attention to the expediency of co-operating with any voluntary societies whose objects include the provision or the organization of similar activities. It is clear that the extent to which a local Authority may co-operate with the boys' clubs in its area is limited only by the standards of those clubs and their willingness to see themselves as part of a whole plan. The extent to which some local Authorities are willing to co-operate depends on many other considerations which sometimes give rise to serious problems. It is an important part of our work to be constantly aware of these considerations and to be alive to the problems so that we may help to prevent them from becoming obstacles to co-operation.

The plans for further education have been in course of preparation by local Authorities for many months. The means by which boys' clubs can play a full and vigorous part in the fulfilment of these plans have been closely examined by the Council during the last two years. In 1946 a Special Committee was appointed to consider the subject, and it was discussed at the Annual Conference of that year. The Report of the Special Committee has now been adopted by the Council and published under the title *The Contribution of Boys' Clubs to the Life of our Time*. After tracing the early history of boys' clubs the Report goes on to deal with their contribution to education. It describes the continuity in education which clubs provide, the preparation they give for life, and the practical experience of self-government and mixing with one's fellows in the larger society of which the club is a part. It then discusses the spiritual objectives to which the boys' club method is directed. Detailed attention is given to the place of the adult in the boys' club and the qualities required of him. The Report says that whether the leader "be

whole-time or part-time, paid or unpaid, it remains true that a free and voluntary sharing with his boys of all that a man has to give is the primary condition of successful leadership in a club". It reaffirms that the Association's policy in developing right relations between boys and girls is based on the principle that "activities shared with girls should be introduced only after an adequate foundation has been laid in the corporate life and activities of a normal boys' club". The conditions are outlined under which the club, the school and the county college can work together with advantage to all. Strong emphasis is laid upon the value of freedom and of a free choice in developing the character of a boy. The Report concludes by reminding everyone concerned of a fact which must never be overlooked in the desire to achieve administrative simplicity or to secure a tidy pattern and avoid overlapping—namely, that in seeking the same general goal of preparing boys and girls for full adult life, each voluntary youth organization has developed its particular philosophy and techniques. "This diversity of attitude and approach", says the Report, "corresponds with the diversity of young personalities. Far from giving rise to unfriendly rivalry it is to be welcomed as evidence of the respect for the boys' and girls' own predilections, and as a guarantee against the perils that a single stereotyped national youth movement would involve".

We believe that the scope and quality of the work of boys' clubs can be steadily extended and improved along the lines of co-operation which were first laid down in Circular 1486 of 1940 and which the Ministry of Education has followed ever since. We hope that as the plans for further education of each local Education Authority become known they will reveal a similar understanding of the importance of diversity, and a similar desire to avoid the dangers of a stereotyped service.

Local Organizations

County Associations were first formed as part of a policy of decentralization in 1933 and, with the exception of the war years, this policy has continued unmodified. During the past year new Associations have been formed in Gloucestershire,

Oxfordshire, Dorset, Warwickshire and Surrey. This brings the number of county associations in England to twenty-two, covering twenty-four counties. In Wales the two federations have been merged into a Welsh Association of Boys' Clubs. The financial assistance which these local organizations receive from the national body is made possible largely by the generosity of King George's Jubilee Trust.

It is of special interest to record that during the past year the London Federation of Boys' Clubs celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. These celebrations were marked by the acceptance of the office of Patron of the Federation by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, and by a dinner at the Goldsmiths Hall when Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein was the principal guest and speaker.

By means of our local associations, federations and councils the force of local character and enthusiasm has been brought into club work. Apart from the specific services which the local organizations give to individual clubs, they are an imortant instrument for arousing public interest and recruiting men and women to help in clubs. They can be a powerful agency in helping to establish and develop the spirit of co-operation and understanding between local Education Authorities and clubs. This is essential if the best provision is to be made for the club life of the boys in any locality.

Membership

At 31st March, 1948, the number of clubs belonging to the Association was 2,521. They had a membership of 195,000. These figures showed an increase of 187 clubs and 12,700 members over the previous year. Ten years ago, in 1938, there were 1,545 clubs and 144,000 members. In 1942, when the effects of the war were most severely felt, there were 1,362 clubs and 102,000 members. But for the restrictions on building, which now make it almost impossible to get a starting date for any scheme involving an expenditure of more than £500, there would undoubtedly have been a much more rapid growth in the past year. Potentially the scope for development is very great and every advance preparation that will further it must be made.

Growth is important and numbers are one means of measuring progress; but the Association has always regarded itself as much more than an organization concerned with administering services by which more and better clubs come into being. We believe that its most useful purpose is to make people aware of the importance of right human relationships. For the boys' club offers its members an apprenticeship through which to learn how to create such relationships and so to make a positive contribution to the larger society of which they and their club are a part.

Training

Two new methods of providing for the training of voluntary leaders have been started during the year. The first is a series of one-month residential courses. These have been made possible by a large measure of financial aid from the King George's Jubilee Trust. Tuition and maintenance at these courses have been free, and compensation for loss of earnings has, where necessary, been paid to the students attending. Two courses have been completed and four more have been planned. The help given by employers in releasing men to attend them has been remarkable, particularly at a time when great emphasis is being laid on the need for increased production. Many firms expressed their keen interest in, and knowledge of, the valuable work done by boys' clubs. The men attending the courses included miners, engineers, transport workers, clerks and employees in the distributive trades, and they came from all parts of the country.

The syllabus is designed to give the type of training that will make the leader competent and efficient in club management and organization. It seeks also to develop him as an individual and to fill in certain educational gaps by introducing him to new interests. It also presents to him the conception of the club in relation to the social structure as a whole and to certain social groups in particular. The lecture method is avoided and each subject is taught in a practical way. Starting with a real life situation the student is led to general principles by discussion and demonstration.

The second innovation has been the Mobile Training

Wing. This consists of a van equipped with every audible and visual aid to training; and it carries a staff of three, specially trained for this work. The function of the Wing is to provide intensive training for groups of leaders in different parts of the country by bringing training to their doors. The staff are equipped with the ability and the material aids to make a course, both for large and small numbers, meet the specific needs of those attending. This flexibility, added to the skill of the staff, has resulted in a very great demand for the Wing, which is now fully booked up for courses far into 1949.

There are some 23,000 adults helping with boys' clubs as leaders, assistants, instructors, members of club management committees or the committees of local organizations, and as members of the administrative staff, both national and local. Of these only about seven per cent. receive any payment for their services. More than half of this total are actively helping in clubs. This presents an immense problem in training; for all need it, whether in the form of an occasional refresher course or a comprehensive training, taken either in a concentrated period or spread over some years. The problem is complicated further by the inevitably large turnover from year to year in any given area.

We hope that a steady increase in the number of the one-month residential courses for voluntary leaders and the work of the Mobile Wing will do much to provide training in one form or another for a very large number of men actively engaged in clubs.

In July, 1947, thirty-one students completed their training as full-time leaders at the National Training Centre, St. Pierre, Chepstow. A further thirty-one students started their training in October and completed it in April, 1948. The number of men trained has proved insufficient to meet the demand from clubs for trained full-time leaders.

There is a careful follow-up of each man trained at St. Pierre, and a further opportunity for assessment arises when each man attends the Log Book Assessment Board to be considered for recognition as a qualified leader a year after he has completed his full-time training.

Religion in Clubs

In 1944 the Association adopted the Report of the Commission on Religion. In doing so it accepted responsibility to arrange for occasions when amongst actual and prospective club leaders Christianity and its presentation to the boy would be the sole subject of discussion. This is being done to an increasing extent. We consider that the teaching of Religion ought to be within the scope of a club leader. He should have so gained the confidence of his members that no one could be better placed to show them the way of life and the source of truth. Many leaders recognize this but are lacking in confidence and often in knowledge. Every effort is being made to meet the needs of these men and to persuade all leaders that their duty in this matter is clear and unchallengeable.

Senior Boy Training

During the year fourteen courses were held at Ford Castle and amongst the boys who attended were small groups from Austria and Germany. The visits of these boys were arranged in consultation with the Educational Interchange Council and the Control Commission for the British Zone of Germany. Subsequent correspondence has demonstrated the sustained benefit to these boys, one of whom has started a boys' club in his home town. For the British boys these personal contacts with boys of other nations were an experience of great educational value.

An experiment of special interest has been a residential Adjustment to Industry Course. This was arranged in co-operation with various interested bodies. Twenty boys who had just left school after receiving vocational guidance were selected by the Birmingham Juvenile Employment Bureau. During the week they lived together a programme was arranged to occupy the same time as industrial hours of work. The curriculum included such subjects as factors of production, history of industry, safety and welfare, P.A.Y.E., trades unions, broadcasting, current affairs and the use of leisure. The course was intensely practical. The boys took part in a project designed to call for initiative, personal

effort and inquiry, and to increase their knowledge of a rural community, national and local history. Those associated with the course learned much from the experiment and their opinion is generally shared by others who have become interested, that there is a need for courses of this nature which increase the awareness of boys in the many problems affecting them in working life and leisure hours.

Camping Centres

During 1947 the King George's Jubilee Trust submitted a scheme for establishing camping centres to the Speaker's Committee which advised the Prime Minister on the use of the South African Aid to Britain Fund. As a result, the N.A.B.C. and the Scottish Association were among the boys' organizations which were offered grants. The Scottish Association and the N.A.B.C. are each to receive £25,000 and we have already begun negotiations for a centre which will serve the industrial midlands.

Research

The extension of the club movement has brought many different types of club into existence, and it has become increasingly obvious that there must be a continuous and rigorous examination and assessment of values. Evidence will then be available whereby opinion can be tested so that development in its widest sense may be wisely guided. It is with this object in view, and because the club offers an opportunity for the study of human relationships, that we have ventured into the field of research. The inquiries have been limited to certain specific problems because we are aware of the danger that research may dissipate itself over a wide field and make no contribution to the main tasks of the Association. The two most important subjects of inquiry are "leakage" and rural clubs.

The term leakage means the loss of members before they reach the normal age of leaving. Leakage occurs in almost every club. An inquiry into such a subject is concerned not only with statistics, but also with facts about the boys themselves. A small pilot survey has indicated that it is necessary to

watch a number of clubs during a period of at least two years. Fifty club leaders have been asked to give certain particulars of all boys who were members on a given starting date. Periodically each leader will be asked to report on which boys have left and to revise the particulars of those who are still members. In this way information will be obtained about some 5,000 boys. It will show whether the boys who leave are differentiated by intelligence and other factors from those who remain. It will provide some facts about the physical development of boys after they leave school and will show whether any effects are attributable to the transition from school to work; and it will provide interesting information about sport and other subjects in connection with age, education and environment.

The need for clubs in villages is well recognized but it is by no means clear that the pattern of the village club should be similar to that of the town club of which the Association has special knowledge and experience. An inquiry is being made into the factors that contribute to the failure or success of village clubs. Such an inquiry must concern itself with the environment and needs of the village boy and not merely with the club as a centre for his leisure occupation.

Limitations of finance and staff must dictate both the scope and the intensity of this pioneer research work into a field that is largely unexplored. We believe that the results will justify expansion, for the work will be concerned with discovering the truth about the social relationships that will contribute to the well-being of the boy and the community.

Specialist Services

In drama, music and the arts and crafts, physical recreation and the planning of club premises, the Association is able to offer specialized assistance to clubs and its local organizations through the services of men who have wide knowledge and experience. The advice on club premises is a service that can still be dealt with centrally. But the other subjects call for a different treatment, and those concerned at headquarters are constantly seeking throughout the country

for their counterparts who can give closer attention to the needs of an individual club or local organization. It is the extent to which any club takes part in all these and other activities which determines the all-round effectiveness of its programme. They are subjects which call for a varying degree of expert knowledge, special training and qualification. The club leader is continually searching for skilled and trained helpers, and there are never enough of them. We seek to increase the supply by two means, realizing that it is not within our province to teach the specialist. The first is through our own specialist advisers constantly extending their local contacts so that they may be able to introduce the trained teacher and instructor to the club. The second method is by special courses where those already qualified to teach such activities can learn how best to teach them to adolescent boys who have usually left school. The Arts Centre at Bakers Cross has been established for this purpose.

One particular aspect of these special activities was again made more widely known by the third tour of the Travelling Theatre early in 1948. The team of club boys who formed the Travelling Theatre this year trained at Bakers Cross. From there they set off on a one thousand five hundred mile tour which took them into Scotland and as far west as Monmouthshire.

During the last two years work has been started on training boys as Junior Fitness leaders. The object is to enthuse selected boys with the desire to raise the standard of physical fitness in their own clubs by personal example. They are also given instruction in the basic principles of teaching recreational games and activities.

The Association's Boxing Team won the Inter-Youth Organizations Championship but its Football Team lost in the Football Championship. Both these events were organized by the proprietors of the *News Chronicle* and *The Star*. The enthusiasm and disinterested generosity of those who control these two national newspapers is a source of great encouragement in a sphere of activity which could so easily be spoiled by the wrong kind of publicity or by any suggestion of exploitation.

Public Relations and Finance

Club work must be able to undergo the closest scrutiny without any reservations. This is possible only if the right type of man can be recruited and trained for leadership and if financial support can be secured. This support is necessary not only so that the individual club may be helped to obtain the things necessary for its existence—such as premises, equipment and the means of meeting recurrent annual maintenance charges. It is also necessary for the less obvious but equally essential work of the national body and its local organizations, each of which is autonomous and responsible for its own affairs. This work covers the whole range of training, development and advice. It also covers the organization of all those events and services which are the means of keeping alert and progressive a body of people sharing common objectives and ideals and wishing to propagate them. In particular the Association is one of those organizations on which rests a considerable responsibility as an agency for extending a powerful and essential medium of education.

The King George's Jubilee Trust has royally supported us since its foundation. Many of the new experiments which have been attempted would have had no chance of success or of permanency but for their generous aid, their liberal attitude towards proposals and the confidence they have reposed in us.

St. Pierre is a permanent reminder of the contribution of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, particularly in the sphere of training from 1935, when a department for this was first established, down to the present day.

The Ministry of Education has continued to extend substantial aid and to make partnership a reality in all its associations with our work. To those who frequently assume that statutory intervention involves restrictions and loss of freedom it would be an encouraging experience to enjoy the relationship that exists between the Ministry and the Association.

The number of the Association's supporters was greatly increased by the National Appeal. The funds subscribed have

been used first to establish and maintain the National Training Centre and to help the schemes of new and existing clubs. The problem of finding sufficient funds to maintain and steadily to extend the Association's services, and through them the number and quality of boy's clubs, is ever present and constantly demands attention.

Private subscribers, the great National Trusts—especially the King George's Jubilee Trust, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the London Parochial Charities—together with the Ministry of Education, have aided us so magnificently because they believe in our work and wish to see it grow and prosper. They have realized that growth calls for nourishment—and that means men and money. The men to bring in a constant flow of new ideas, clear ideals, and the devotion of true vocation. The money to provide buildings, equipment and services—the tools for the job. It is in the sure belief that the confidence shown in the Association in the past will continue to be shared by a steadily increasing body of supporters, that we face the problems and opportunities of the future with resolution, courage and hope.

ABERDARE, *Chairman of the Council.*
R. E. GOODWIN, *General Secretary.*

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Edinburgh on 11*th July*, 1948

It is a long time since we held our Conference and Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh and I know I shall be expressing the feelings of all of us who are visitors to this great and noble city when I say what a privilege we consider it to meet here. We are especially grateful for the interest shown by the civic authorities and for the hospitality of those whose buildings and service have been placed so unreservedly at our disposal.

Before I venture to look forward a little I want to look back for a few moments over some events of the past year which do not find their place in the Annual Report.

We are particularly glad that our President, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, has found it possible to resume his visits to various parts of the country. These visits were such a feature of his work for us before the war and have proved to be most encouraging and stimulating. This year His Royal Highness has already been to Northumberland and Leeds, and during the autumn he hopes to make two further tours. The Association is most grateful to him for these practical demonstrations of his never failing interest in boys' clubs.

Four very good friends have died during the past year, and we remember their lives with deep gratitude. Viscount Caldecote, who was a Vice-President and Chairman of the Commission on Religion; Mr. A. E. Tyrer, for many years a member of the Council and for more than thirty years Warden of the Brighton Boys' Club; Mr. T. D. Young, who was Joint Hon. Treasurer, Chairman of the Finance Committee for three years and Chairman, until his death, of the Executive Committee of the Northumberland Association; and Sir Alexander Paterson, through whose inspiration, leadership and example so many were attracted to serve the boys' club movement.

We have also recently lost the services of the Hon. David Smith owing to the increased demands made upon his time by business affairs, following his appointment as head of

W. H. Smith & Son after the untimely death of Lord Hambleden. Mr. David Smith was one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council, and Chairman of the Appeal Committee and of the Research Committee. I do not think the Association's debt to him is as widely known as it should be. As Vice-Chairman of the National Appeal Committee during the whole of its eighteen months of intense activity, there devolved upon him the task of holding together a widely representative body of influential men, of maintaining their enthusiasm and making the most advantageous use of the many suggestions and contacts which they introduced. The best testimony to the success he achieved was the result of the Appeal and we shall always be deeply indebted to him.

The Annual General Meeting gives me an opportunity of saying a word of appreciation for the constant hard work and tireless devotion of every member of the Association's Staff. With few additions to their ranks they have taken on the tremendously increased responsibilities which have been assumed by the Association in the past three years. They hope you will ask much of them, and I know that you share my confidence in them wholeheartedly.

This growth in the Association's work gives rise to a danger which perhaps I ought to mention. Some of us are inclined to think, perhaps, that in the good old days, when we were a very small organization and everyone knew each other, we were better off. This is doubtful; nevertheless, there is always a danger that in growing rapidly, as the N.A.B.C. has done, those who administer lose touch with those who lead clubs and are in daily contact with boys. Even more insidious is the danger that those who administer, however much they may be out of touch with club leaders, legislate on the assumption, not only that they know what is good for those who lead clubs and for boys, but also that they know what they want and need. We are very alive to that danger. It is one of the reasons why we have pursued for the past fifteen years a policy of decentralization by forming local organizations, with a high degree of autonomy.

These local organizations are channels through which the needs of clubs are constantly being communicated to those

who administer and through which ideas flow. They are indeed the life-lines of an Association which exists to express the will of its constituent members. It is essential, therefore, that our local organizations should be extended to all areas, where there are clubs or where there is need for clubs. They must be representative not only of the best informed opinions on club work in their localities but also of the opinions of people who have kindred and wider interests.

The Executive Committees of these local organizations are the most important links between the clubs and their national headquarters. They need first to know the particular problems of clubs in their areas; to appreciate various trends; to take the initiative in raising funds, to develop more clubs, to recruit volunteers, and to give wholehearted support to their organizing secretary. In doing all this, they must win the confidence of every club in their locality. They must persuade everyone connected with clubs of the importance of taking part in the life of the local organization and of contributing towards its knowledge. The Executive Committees must also be in most active contact with the national body and play their full part in its counsels. They must loyally express the ideals and the objectives that are formulated by the national body as a result of consultation with them.

You will remember that in *Principles and Aims* it was stated that the N.A.B.C. was formed not to be the centre of a new movement but to link together a number of existing bodies. This purpose remains unchanged, so that in whatever the Association undertakes it endeavours to shape its policy to meet what club leaders have found to be the need in practice. I restate this position because I want to call attention to something we are inclined to forget when we disregard or are unduly critical about our national body, and refer to it somewhat cynically as "London" or "Bedford Square".

We are not an Association which depends for its policy and its direction on dynamic leadership from the centre—a leadership unrelated to the hard facts of daily experience. We depend on a two-way friendship, a two-way exchange of views and knowledge, a two-way confidence and a two-way

loyalty. By this means only can the experience and the practice of an ever increasing and intensely individualistic body of leaders, and others closely associated with club work, be collated and expressed in the common action which arises from an acceptable policy. In the realization and practice of this ideal lies our strength; for an Association thus constituted and directed will be abreast of the latest thought, and it will be healthy and sound of heart. Its strength will be greater than the sum total of its membership. As one body it will pursue a common objective: to create in each boy a desire for wholeness, for what we more often call the threefold fitness—fitness for citizenship in that abiding city whose ruler and maker is God.

I would urge each one of you to remember the responsibility for keeping open this two-way relationship of which I have spoken. It cannot be done if you shut yourself up in the isolation of your club, your local association, or your national office. Your club cannot be the force in its members' lives which it should be if you are out of touch with kindred spirits. Exactly the same thing applies, no matter what part we are playing in the Association, and it has no relation whatever to the fact that we may be paid or unpaid for what we do. By all means be jealous *for* your club members but do not be jealous *of* them. Lead them to play their part in activities outside their club, such as Senior Boy Training, both locally and at Ford Castle. Help and guide those with special gifts to express them in the varied programme of your local organization and at regional festivals, and help to develop these gifts at such places as the Arts Centre at Bakers Cross.

You yourselves, as leaders, must be constantly endeavouring to be better equipped for your club work, no matter if the club in which you serve meets one night a week in borrowed premises or has the finest buildings in the country. Vocation is a great quality; we cannot do club work without it but we must supplement it and magnify its force. The best leaders, who are very humble men, conscious of their defects, recognize this. They seek training in the technique of club management, and they seek to extend their own interests so that they can give themselves more abundantly to their task.

Last year at the Annual General Meeting I re-emphasized how essential it was to have whole-hearted co-operation and real partnership between local statutory authorities and voluntary bodies—a spirit which I am glad to say exists nationally between the Ministry of Education and ourselves. In seeking to make this local co-operation more realistic and effective we would be wise to appreciate that each partner has a rather different point of view. The statutory authority has an obligation placed upon it by Act of Parliament to provide facilities for further education. A part of that provision includes what is generally called the Youth Service. This obligation is one of many, and in fulfilling it the Authority must show no special favour towards one voluntary organization but must take due account of the work of all. Our approach is that of specialists who particularly believe in one form of youth work above all others.

We have, however, no obligation other than the compulsion of our own conviction that we must do this work as our contribution as citizens, and because we have a sense of vocation in this particular direction. The further education development plans of local authorities, to which I referred last year, have shown much progress during the past twelve months. In some areas there is reason to be very hopeful that the plans are taking full account of the place of boys' clubs in future developments. But in other areas there is little evidence that any account is being taken of the contribution which boys' clubs can make to further education.

I firmly believe that any further education plans which the place of the voluntary youth organizations will be ignore foolishly discarding the means that are most likely to put a very large number of young people in touch with educational agencies. I believe, too, that such plans would result in a great loss of adult voluntary workers; in an increasingly stereotyped youth service; and in the setting up of institutions based on activities, rather than on a fellowship in which the members have obligations as well as rights.

Finally, I do hope that those who are engaged in planning the further education provisions for the future will remember that one essential characteristic of a club is that it shall be

a comparatively small unit. The stringent circumstances of these times have made it necessary to use premises that often provide for hundreds of members, but this practice is an expedient and should not be perpetuated in the permanent buildings planned for the future. The boys' club is not in its element and cannot fulfil its true function in the "all purposes" community building or the vast Youth Centre. It needs a comparatively small building, not elaborately equipped. It should be based on a neighbourhood unit on which it can make an impression as an agency designed to help, create, and serve the community of which it is a part.

One Director of Education, who is very interested in the Service of Youth, is reported as having expressed the hope that the N.A.B.C. as an experiment would start some *mixed* clubs. This is not our function. The N.A.G.C. & M.C. are paying particular attention to developing that type of club and serving its needs.

We are sometimes accused of being reactionary and out of touch with reality because of our views on this particular subject.

In this connection there is, I think, an unfortunate tendency to assume that what young people say they want is the same thing as what in fact they need. It is one of the functions of a good leader to show young people that what they need may be very different from what they want. The subjective opinions of boys and girls are notoriously unreliable—as they are the first to appreciate when guided to examine a question objectively.

The whole matter has been dealt with at length in the Association's statement of policy published earlier this year under the title *The Contribution of Boys' Clubs to the Life of our Time*. I was very glad to see one section referred to by *The Times* Educational Supplement as "a generous tribute to the other voluntary youth organizations". It reads thus:

"Out of the pioneer efforts of the men and women who first gave themselves to the welfare of youth, there have grown up a number of organizations, each seeking the same general goal, namely, the preparation of boys and girls for a full adult life. Each has its own particular philosophy and

technique, and this diversity of attitude and approach corresponds with the diversity of young personalities. Far from giving rise to unfriendly rivalry it is to be welcomed as evidence of the respect for the boys' and girls' own predilections and as a guarantee against the perils which a single stereotyped national youth movement would involve.

The boys' club method is not the only way; but it is one way which has proved of value to many boys".

There are some other subjects to which I want briefly to refer. The first is the measure of responsibility we have towards boys of school age. Three years ago the Ministry of Education issued Circular 13 in which they asked local education authorities to consider as a matter of some urgency the provision of facilities for the leisure time of children of school age. The Council of the Association set up a Committee whose Report was finally adjourned *sine die*. Within the last four weeks the Ministry's Central Advisory Council for Education has issued its second report entitled *Out of School*. Its recommendations call for provisions no less extensive than those which can now be made for young people above school age. They advocate that voluntary bodies should receive assistance by way of grants on terms which are at least as favourable as those now given to voluntary organizations taking part in the Youth Service. It is clear that the Association will have to consider again whether, without decreasing its effort on behalf of the 14 to 18 year-old age group, it has not also got to find the means of extending its work to a lower age group. I cannot prophesy what decision will be reached, but I think we shall certainly maintain our view, that while taking every precaution to prevent confusion and divided loyalties, our present lower age limit of about 14 is determined by physiological and other conditions of adolescence. These are not affected by the school-leaving age or by any provision made for those of school age. I can assure you that the subject will be examined with the greatest care.

At the other end of the age range there is a problem which for many years has been engaging the attention of some of the older clubs. There is always the danger that the

old boys' club will become a social centre to which those who are not willing to shoulder adult responsibilities escape from the demands of the wider community. Many feel that if an old boys' club is to be merely a shelter of that kind, it would be better if such a club did not exist. But it is clear that we have still much to learn about the transition from boyhood to manhood, and about the methods of ensuring that the best qualities developed in boys during their club life are given an outlet in voluntary service in the adult community when their boys' club days are over.

Two years ago at Reading I suggested that we could not long delay considering what part we must play in extending the club movement overseas. Mr. Henriques has challenged us in no uncertain terms. At this stage I would only add that we are in almost daily touch with the British Council, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the various voluntary bodies that are bringing men to this country for experience in youth work. Already we have done a good deal to provide training for men from overseas at St. Pierre and elsewhere. For the second year in succession groups of boys from Germany and Austria are attending courses at Ford Castle. I am convinced that these men and boys from other countries are making a very important contribution to our work here. The links are being forged from which a future world-wide movement may be established.

My last point is concerned with quite a different subject. In my view the time is coming when we shall have to consider asking clubs to shoulder a greater financial responsibility for their own Association than is expressed in the affiliation fee they pay at present. I think it is only proper that the members of a voluntary and democratic body should make a reasonable contribution towards its financial needs which arise as a result of its work on their behalf. One of the oldest national voluntary organizations has a magnificent record in this respect. I believe its constituent members are the better for rising annually to the call made upon them, and that their individual financial position is strengthened by the very fact that they make a special effort each year, part of the proceeds of which are divided between their local organizations and

their national body. Nothing could be more in keeping with the principles and aims of the N.A.B.C. than that its members should now assume for the first time, and continue to bear, their due responsibility for their own Association.

It is fifteen years since we were fortunate enough to hold an Annual Conference in Edinburgh. At that time we were less than ten years old as an Association of clubs. Now, in 1948, we are already past our own coming-of-age, and we are here to do honour to our fellow Association for Scotland, which attains its majority this year. It is in no sense invidious to mention three names in connection with the Scottish Association and ourselves. I need hardly say to an audience such as you that the three men whose names I have in mind are George Troup, Hewitson Brown and Stanley Nairne.

Stanley Nairne to many of us is almost, as it were, the symbol of boys' clubs. No man I have ever met knows so much about boys or more about the club method. Few men in our movement are so old in experience but so young in heart. He has in truth the qualities of Mr. Chips.

Hewitson Brown has the gift of friendship in unusual measure, and lets nothing in his public or private life prevent the almost prodigal exercise of it. There can be few—if any—men even in a movement like ours, to whom so many boys individually owe so much.

George Troup was at the first National Conference at Toynbee Hall on October 23rd-25th, 1925. (The only others here, by the way, who share that distinction are, I believe, Mr. Ian Horobin, Mr. Townshend and Mr. Walkinshaw). Mr. Troup became a co-opted member of the Executive and since the early war years he has been a Vice-Chairman of the Council. He is the first and only Chairman of the Scottish Association, and has seen no less than *five* men occupy the Chair of the National Association; he is now looking forward to making this six! Looking at him you would hardly describe him as the grand old man. Indeed his twenty-one years of Chairmanship of the Scottish Association and of close contacts with the government of the N.A.B.C. have produced no signs of advancing years. His links with clubs go far back to the great days of Alec

Paterson and his contemporaries before the first World War.

No mere catalogue of his work and association with clubs can tell you of George Troup, the man. Sooner or later this tale of his busy years in boys' clubs must come to an end, and I like to think that when it does there will remain to him a long time of retirement in which to enjoy Iona—the Isle of Peace (and, I believe, of Plenty)—whither his thoughts often fly. When that time comes he will take with him not only the memories of the years and the goodwill of his hosts of friends, but also the words he himself spoke at our Conference in Oxford nine years ago, when, in calling for the adoption of our new Constitution incorporated in the Royal Charter, he expressed the thanks of the Association to the Founders of the N.A.B.C., the Staff, the Chairman and another individual to whom he said "he greatly desired to speak"—the Unknown Club Leader. In the words George Troup then addressed to that unknown man we have a glimpse of what has motivated him during more than forty years of club work and on his words I shall close:

> "You heard the call to serve—in some grey district, where people's troubles are very large because their street is very narrow. You have found there a finer spirit, a courage more indomitable than you could ever boast. Yours is a poor club building, perhaps. There has always been a lack of helpers. More than once the Committee have asked whether it was worth-while.
>
> "You have had to face more difficulties than we can ever know. There is, for instance, that one boy who has given you many hours of anxiety, his good impulses unfollowed, his evil impulses unfought. And at night you have often gone home, tired of foot, perhaps disillusioned; and yet you carry on.
>
> "May I say two things to you? The first is just this: You may not see what John Milton calls "The whiteness of the harvest". But if, out of the boy with few apparent chances, you are making a young fellow who is strong, gentle, and devout, you have gone far to produce a man who shall be of unmeasured and unmeasurable value to his town, to his time, and to his Country.

"The other point is this: Your work down there is bringing its own reward. In this life at least, the eternal gifts come only to those who serve.

"Yes, there is one individual we can never forget: the Unknown Club Leader, the man in the rank and file, to whom we record the thanks of our hearts".

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOYS' CLUBS

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

as at

YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 1948

17 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1
Telephone: MUSeum 5357/9

BALANCE SHEET AS

1947 £	£		£	£	£
		FOUNDATION FUND:			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...		15,773	
		Add Profit on Sale of Investments ...		258	
15,773					16,031
		GENERAL FUNDS:			
		General Purposes Fund—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	5,339		
		Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st March, 1948	3,778		
	5,338			1,561	
		National Appeal Account—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	65,218		
		Add Transfer from Special Fund ...	32,459		
			97,677		
		Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account	13,706		
	65,218			83,971	
		Training Centres Fund—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	31,475		
		Add Grant from Ministry of Education 3,000			
		Grant from Sir Halley Stewart Trust ... 1,000			
		Subscription 260			
			4,260		
	31,475			35,735	
	—	Bank Overdraft		10,586	
		Creditors and Amounts Received in Advance (including £500 held on			
	6,910	behalf of Crookham Lads' Club) ...		8,119	
108,941					139,972
		GRANTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS:			
	78,917	Unexpended Balances		498	
	18	Creditors		131	
78,935					629

ABERDARE
ANTHONY de ROTHSCHILD } Members of the Council

We have examined the Balance Sheet of the National Association of Boys' Clubs as at 31st March, 1948, together with the annexed General and Special Funds Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1948, and have compared them with the books kept by the Association, and find them to be in accordance therewith. We have tested the accuracy of the receipts and payments and have verified the Cash at Bank and in Hand. The Association's Bankers have certified that they hold in safe custody the Investments set out in the Balance Sheet and also the Title Deeds of the freehold property.

We are of the opinion that such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Association's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Association.

BLACK, GEOGHEGAN & TILL,
21st October, 1948. Chartered Accountants, 67 Watling Street, E.C.4

£203,649 £156,632

T 31ST MARCH, 1948

1947 £	£		£	£	£
		FOUNDATION FUND:			
		Investment, at cost—			
	15,773	£6,256 10s. 0d. Nigeria 5% Stock 1950/60 (Market Value £6,569)...		6,338	
	—	Debtors in respect of proceeds of sale of Investments		9,189	
	—	Balance at Bankers		504	
15,773					16,031
		GENERAL FUNDS:			
	11,946	Balances at Bankers and Cash in Hand		3,157	
		Investment, at cost—			
	56,329	£11,400 2½% National War Bonds 1954/56 (Market Value £11,571)		12,006	
	—	Debtors in respect of proceeds of sale of Investments		78,539	
	3,730	Sundry Debtors and Loans		7,191	
	268	Stock of Publications and Badges ...		416	
		Office Equipment, Furniture, etc.—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	552		
		Net Additions during year ...	196		
			748		
		Less Depreciation	91		
	552			657	
		Motor Cars and Van—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	2,000		
		Net Additions during year ...	2,328		
			4,328		
		Less Depreciation	978		
	2,000			3,350	
		Training Centres—			
		Equipment—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947 ...	7,500		
		Net Additions during year ...	951		
			8,451		
		Less Depreciation	845		
	7,500			7,606	
		Freehold Property—			
		Balance at 31st March, 1947:			
		St. Pierre	22,657		
		Bakers Cross	3,959		
			26,616		
		Expenditure during year—St. Pierre	434		
	26,616			27,050	
108,941					139,972
		GRANTS AND SPECIAL FUNDS:			
	78,935	Balance at Bankers		504	
	—	Debtor		125	
78,935					629
£203,649					£156,632

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOU

1947 £	£		£	£
		To Headquarters Administration:		
	6,680	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	6,013	
	1,240	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	442	
	416	Rent, Rates and Land Tax	448	
	376	Lighting and Heating	309	
	1,753	Postages, Printing, Stationery and Telephone	2,577	
	173	Repairs	92	
	462	Travelling Expenses	652	
	423	Office Expenses and Insurance	518	
	150	Audit Fee	222	
	95	Loan Interest	15	
	59	Depreciation of Furniture and Equipment ...	66	
	11,827		11,354	
	6,570	*Less* Allocation for Development, Training, Specialist Advisers, etc.	5,677	
5,257				5,677
		„ Development:		
	7,283	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	8,762	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	603	
	2,628	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	2,365	
	4,811	Travelling, Car and Sundry Expenses ...	4,978	
	3,880	Grants for Development	1,805	
	214	Depreciation of Cars	680	
18,816				19,193
		„ Training:		
		Leader Training—		
	1,071	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	2,639	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	178	
	1,314	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	946	
	416	Travelling Expenses	563	
	26	Training Courses—Net cost	—	
	132	Grants to Training Courses	489	
	31	Sundry Expenses	212	
2,990				5,027
		Mobile Training Wing—		
		Salaries	485	
		Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	22	
		Travelling and Sundry Expenses	795	
		Depreciation of Van	201	
—				1,503
		Senior Boy Training—		
	530	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	715	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	49	
	1,314	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	473	
	221	Travelling Expenses	114	
	17	Training Courses—Net cost	—	
	415	Grants to Training Courses	604	
	12	Sundry Expenses	58	
2,509				2,013
29,572		forward		33,413

T FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1948

1947 £	£		£	£
		By Subscriptions, Donations and Legacies:		
2,271		Annual Subscriptions	13,352	
2,267		Donations	4,829	
818		Broadcast Appeal	—	
1,000		Legacy	100	
—		Joint Functions with National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs	1,763	
6,356				20,044
		„ Grants:		
	18,500	Ministry of Education ... 20,000		
		Less Allocations to South Wales Federation of Boys' Clubs and Welsh Association of Boys'		
	1,650	Clubs 1,950		
16,850			18,050	
2,600		King George's Jubilee Trust	1,600	
300		London Parochial Charities	100	
19,750				19,750
		„ Interest received:		
1,338		Investments	3,516	
104		Savings Bank Deposits, etc.	285	
1,442				3,801
331		„ Affiliation Fees		386
		„ Sundry Income:		
203		Accident and Sickness Insurance	229	
—		Profit on Sale of Badges	12	
135		Rent Received	—	
338				241
		„ Training Centres:		
		St. Pierre—		
2,797		Course Fees, Visitors' Payments, etc. ...	5,222	
240		Rents	280	
		Grants—		
	2,000	King George's Jubilee Trust ... 4,250		
		Less Amount carried forward ... 750		
		3,500		
	1,000	News Chronicle ... ... —		
3,000			3,500	
22		Sundry Receipts	104	
6,059				9,106
		Ford Castle—		
802		Course Fees, Visitors' Payments, etc. ...	1,249	
458		Subscriptions and Donations	461	
1,000		King George's Jubilee Trust Grant ...	1,000	
—		Shop—Profit	75	
2,260				2,785
		Bakers Cross—		
117		Course Fees, Visitors' Payments, etc. ...	327	
32		Rents	19	
12		Donations	27	
—		Sundry Receipts	12	
161				385
36,697		forward		56,498

1947 £	£		£	£
29,572		forward		33,413
		To Training (Contd.):		
		Religious Training—		
	398	Salary	300	
	438	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	236	
	21	Travelling Expenses	261	
	27	Sundry Expenses	8	
884				805
		Physical Recreation Training—		
		Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	1,452	
		Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	122	
		Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	473	
		Travelling Expenses	331	
				2,378
		„ Training Centres:		
		St. Pierre—		
	3,203	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	4,135	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	258	
	298	Rates and Insurance	337	
	71	Repairs and Maintenance	498	
	389	Lighting and Heating	490	
	80	Laundry and Cleaning	157	
	1,052	Catering and Canteen	1,552	
	74	Garden Expenses	187	
	406	Course Expenses	716	
	—	Residential Voluntary Leaders' Courses ...	1,464	
	585	Travelling and Car Expenses	519	
	196	Postages, Printing, Stationery and Telephone	323	
	615	Accommodation at and Travelling to Clubs	1,363	
	888	Bursaries	838	
	216	Sundry Expenses	110	
	—	Renewals of Equipment	50	
	452	Depreciation of Equipment	434	
8,525				13,431
		Ford Castle—		
	1,352	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	1,547	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	42	
	239	Rates and Insurance	359	
	406	Repairs, Maintenance and Garden Expenses	754	
	721	Lighting and Heating	967	
	128	Laundry and Cleaning	93	
	900	Catering	1,109	
	469	Travelling and Car Expenses	397	
	421	Postages, Printing, Stationery and Telephone	445	
	146	Grant—Aid	76	
	200	Course and Sundry Expenses	211	
	250	Depreciation of Equipment	274	
5,232				6,274
44,213		forward		56,301

1947		
£		£
36,697	forward	56,498
16,000	By Transfer from National Appeal Account ...	13,706

52,697	forward	70,204

1947 £	£		£	£
44,213		forward		56,301
		To Training Centres (Contd.):		
		Bakers Cross—		
	1,010	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance	889	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	27	
	135	Rates and Insurance	97	
	65	Repairs and Maintenance	92	
	144	Lighting and Heating	166	
	60	Laundry and Cleaning	117	
	249	Catering and Canteen	270	
	69	Garden Expenses	40	
	109	Travelling and Car Expenses	207	
	117	Postages, Printing, Stationery and Telephone	154	
	89	Sundry Expenses	131	
	132	Depreciation—Equipment	138	
	—	Car	97	
	—	Drama, Library, etc. ...	25	
2,179				2,450
		„ Specialist Advisers:		
	1,980	Salaries, Honoraria and Fees	1,310	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	42	
	876	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	236	
	1,191	Travelling Expenses	393	
4,047				1,981
		„ Research:		
	498	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	1,752	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	163	
	54	Rent	275	
	31	Lighting and Heating	63	
	99	Postages, Printing, Stationery and Telephone	162	
	—	Travelling Expenses	55	
	—	Sundry Expenses	82	
682				2,552
		„ Public Relations and Revenue:		
		Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	2,587	
		Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	10	
		Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	475	
		Printing and Stationery	69	
		Travelling Expenses	521	
		Sundry Expenses	44	
—				3,706
51,121		forward		66,990

1947 £		£
52,697	forward	70,204
52,697		70,204

1947 £	£		£	£
51,121		forward		66,990
		To Publications:		
	—	Salaries, Wages and National Insurance ...	845	
	—	Pensions Scheme and Life Assurance ...	30	
	—	Proportion of H.Q. Administration Expenses	473	
	—	Travelling Expenses	8	
		"The Boy" ...		
	413	Printing and Postage ... 527		
	37	*Less* Subscriptions 77		
	112	Advertisements ... 199		
	149	— — 276		
	264	251		
	17	*Less* Profit on other Publications 78		
247		—	173	
			—	1,529
393		To Publicity, Literature and Exhibition Costs		213
		„ Sundry Expenses:		
	11	Annual Conference	17	
	29	Appeal Expenses	—	
	47	Contributions to Other Societies	47	
	106	Picture Scheme	26	
	—	Travelling Theatre	400	
193		—	—	490
		„ Allocation to Trust Fund for Grants to Area Organisations and for Special purposes ...		3,175
55		„ Loss on sale of Investments		1,585
52,009				73,982
		„ Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year, as per Balance Sheet ...		
688				—
£52,697				£73,982

1947 £		£
2,697	forward	70,204
—	By Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year, as per Balance Sheet ...	3,778
£2,697		£73,982

SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACC

	£	£
Bellingham Playing Field, Rental Account:		
Rent, Tithe, Insurance, etc.	383	
Payments to London Federation of Boys' Clubs	168	
Balance due to London Federation of Boys' Clubs	36	
	—	587
Channel Islands Fund:		
Grants during year		147
London Parochial Charities Fund:		
Amounts distributed during year	806	
Balance at 31st March, 1948	2	
	—	808
Mitchell Memorial Library Fund:		
Grant during year	1	
Balance at 31st March, 1948	187	
	—	188
National Appeal:		
Expenses and Allocations	50,432	
Grants during year	9,569	
Transfer to General Funds	32,459	
	———	92,460
Trust Fund for Grants to Area Organisations and for Special Purposes:		
Grants to Area Organisations:		
Payments made 12,080		
Balance due 95		
———	12,175	
Grants to N.A.B.C. Funds:		
Development in Yorkshire 1,600		
St. Pierre 4,250		
Ford Castle 1,000		
———	6,850	
	———	19,025
War Emergency Fund:		
Grants during year	10	
Balance at 31st March, 1948	309	
	—	319
		£113,534

JNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1948.

	£	£
Bellingham Playing Field, Rental Account:		
Balance at 31st March, 1947	18	
Rents Receivable	569	
	—	587
Channel Islands Fund:		
Balance at 31st March, 1947		147
London Parochial Charities Fund:		
Balance at 31st March, 1947	58	
Grant Received	750	
	—	808
Mitchell Memorial Library Fund:		
Balance at 31st March, 1947		188
National Appeal:		
Balance at 31st March, 1947	78,310	
Subscriptions and Donations received during year	14,150	
	———	92,460
Trust Fund for Grants to Area Organisations and for Special Purposes:		
Grants Received from the King George's Jubilee Trust	15,850	
Allocation from General Income and Expenditure Account ...	3,175	
	———	19,025
War Emergency Fund:		
Balance at 31st March ,1947	214	
Grants Refunded	105	
	—	319

£113,534

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